

Putnam County Boys' Basketball

Dan Kern's Collection of Putnam County Sport's History

In 1979, Ron Burgel, Kevin McGlaughlin and I were engaged in an argument about which Miller City team was the best rebounding team. Where would we find the information? We started looking through what records Miller City had at the time. It was in unorganized folders and boxes lying about the school. This was the start. Little did I know at the time that this conversation would turn in to a never-ending project of collecting information about the sport's history of Putnam County. As time progressed, I started compiling basketball information on all the schools in Putnam County. Eventually, all 19 varsity sports of Putnam County were included. The information came from many places, but the bulk came from newspapers, yearbooks, scorebooks and people's memories.

Many people have helped in this collection process. Doug Durliat from Ottawa and Marv Sebring from Defiance had been collecting basketball scores for years. Charlie Warnimont of the Putnam County Sentinel has helped dispense and collect information. The Genealogy Directors of the Putnam County Library have helped immensely. Mary King of the Putnam County Vidette and Niles Stateler of the Continental News Review left me take home original copies of their newspapers so that I could read them at my leisure. All the Athletic Directors and Principals of the high schools gave me direct access to the year books at their schools. Many individuals let me look at their high school yearbooks. All the coaches of Putnam County have been providing me information in their respective sports. If I have omitted anyone who has contributed to this collection process, I apologize.

My first methods of recording this information were primitive, the pen, paper and a typewriter. Imagine the difficulty of trying to change a list of the top 50 Career Scorers in Putnam County by use of a typewriter. When Tim Pollitz replaced Stretch Goedde in 2004 as the leading, career boys' scorer, all the names had to go down one slot. This would have been a momentous task in the 1980's. However, today the computer makes this change simple.

This book covers many areas of basketball in Putnam County. The table of contents should be able to guide you through this book to any specific area that is needed. At the end of the book there are many articles over the years concerning basketball. Please don't be offended by the bold and challenging headlines of the past, or the strong criticisms of different schools towards each other. It is amazing how little things have changed when you read about the 3-point line in an article written in 1932. People complained about 'home cooking' and biased officials in 1917 just as they do today. The history of Putnam County basketball is a treasure that many of us share with each other when we talk about the great players, coaches or games we have seen. Hopefully, this book will help you appreciate and preserve the rich traditions of Putnam County basketball.

My first method of dispensing basketball information to the sport's fans of Putnam County was in the basketball program at Miller City from 1988-2003. Due to the volume of information, only a small portion of it was ever seen.

This book is the second way. Most of the high school libraries in Putnam County and the Putnam County Library have purchased the book and have made it available to the public.

A website on the internet was the third way. Its site is www.putnamcountyleague.org. Most of the initial work on this project was done by Jeremy Stober, a former teacher and coach at Kalida High School. The site was redone and updated in 2014 by Mark Suter and his Pandora-Gilboa Tech Club. The project was led by Jacob Basinger, a member of the Tech Club.

By the fall of 2022, the PCL website will be finished. It was created by Joel DeVenny through his business, Microtronix. It has all the Putnam County books created by Dan Kern and sport's information dealing with the schools of Putnam County.

Special Thanks and Dedication

Kevin McGlaughlin, Steve Ranes, Mark Suter, Jacob Basinger and Joel DeVenny

Kevin McGlaughlin helped me in the first years of gathering statistics and records for Miller City. Steve Ranes, my publisher, then took this information and put it in book form, making it available to hundreds. Jeremy Stober and the P-G Tech Club with advisor Mark Suter took it to the next level, making all of this information available to the "world" by putting it on the internet. And finally, Joel DeVenny took this information and updated it even more. Thank you so much!

Ron Burgel - Jim Losh Jayna McGlaughlin

This book is dedicated to the late Ron Burgel, Jayna McGlaughlin and Jim Losh, three dear friends who loved basketball with a passion. I'm sure all three are following with great interest the success of Miller City and Ottawa-Glandorf with a special eye on coaches Tyson and Kevin McGlaughlin at Ottawa-Glandorf.